

REPORT

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that direction and order were needed but that the result should not be regimentation. Constant repetition had sapped the life blood of the great Marxist slogans. He pointed out that during the Weimar Republic the Marxist slogans had had life and attraction and had been expressions of a living, advancing front. He compared the conditions of the present day to those of a declining movement. The chief reason for this unhappy situation, he stated, was that the Communist movement lacked life and had calcified. He demanded that research be given freedom and stated that if Marx were really omnipotent and had taught the truth he was in no danger if freedom of research were allowed. His remarks were also greeted with loud, long applause.

6. Heinrich Deiters stated that as a student of educational theory he seconded Zweig's demands for more free time for youth. He demanded further that Party jargon ("Parteichinesisch bzw. Kaderwelsch") be eliminated and that teachers be allowed more freedom and initiative.
7. Heinrich Becker, Hero of Labor and Director of the Bibliographical Institute, stated that he agreed with Deiters and Zweig, and as proof of the veracity of their remarks pointed to the lack of interest displayed by the East German public in the latest Duden editions.
8. In his concluding remarks Kneschke attacked all previous speakers very sharply. He took exception particularly to their attacks against the speech of the Party, stating that it was a national duty to advance the science of linguistics.
9. On the following day State Secretary Alexander Abusch held the ideological speech and presented the SED party line on cultural affairs. He was followed by Kleinschmidt, who stated that Zweig's idea of giving the youth more free time was dangerous because the enemy could take advantage of such tactics. He accused Zweig of endangering the class struggle, stating that it was this struggle and the tempo dictated by the enemy, not over-organization, which were responsible for the lack of free time.
10. Albert Donle, leader of the Berlin delegation, also attacked the past program of the National Secretariat and stated that the level of entertainment in the cultural rooms of the East German factories was very low and nothing more than a worthless miscellany.
11. The congress concluded with the purely formal election of a new Presidial Council of 60 members. The list has been previously selected by the National Secretariat, and there was little discussion of any of the candidates, all of whom were "elected".

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Comment: None of the anti-Party-line discussions appeared in the East German press. The only exception was a condensed version of Zweig's remarks which the LDP organ Saechsisches Tageblatt, published the following day. This article in the Saechsisches Tageblatt was taken back to the various Bezirke by most of the delegates, so that Zweig's remarks had a much greater resonance than they would have otherwise.

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Comment: This near rebellion against the SED cultural line is a unique phenomenon. There has been nothing similar since the attack of Wolfgang Harich in the East Berlin Berliner Zeitung immediately after 17 June 1953. Harich also castigated SED cultural policies but was subsequently forced back into line by Wilhelm Girmus and Walter Besenbruch, the SED cultural dictators.

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